

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, yesterday I indicated to you that I may withdraw my amendment in favor of a compromise amendment that was pending and we thus adjourned because that amendment was not down from the bill drafters' office. This morning, if I can indulge the body for a moment, I guess I would like to ask to discuss the merits or demerits of my amendment that I have asked to have the rules suspended for in comparison with Senator Warner's amendment which, I believe, has now been distributed to the members. I guess I would like to hear the rationale as to why that amendment is better than a straight-out exemption for the sales tax on...or taking the sales tax off of farm machinery, other than possibly the political consequences of getting 30 votes to suspend the rules. But I have not had enough time to digest Senator Warner's proposal and the rationale used to develop its...the way it's been put together as opposed to my amendment, AM3240. So at this particular...as I said, I don't wish to prolong the debate, but, on the other hand, this is an important vote for me as relative to the overall bill of LB 1063. And, as I think a number of members mentioned either to the press yesterday or in passing to me, this is a critical vote in their eyes on this whole package of the 3-R plan. So, with that, I guess I will let the debate kind of flow and see where we go from there, and at some point if I feel that my questions or concerns have been answered during the debate, I will, quite frankly, consider pulling the suspension motion and moving to Senator Warner's proposal. But I would like to at least have a dialogue before we do that to compare the two ideas and see which one the body may feel most comfortable with.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on the suspension motion. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I said yesterday that I really didn't think we should try to trade the exemption for the sales tax on farm equipment for the option of exempting all personal property taxes and I still feel that way. I think that the amendment which has been offered by Senator Warner is a well-intended effort to try to compromise, but it certainly does not, in any way, fulfill the needs of agriculture. I appreciate and I have told Senator Johnson that there is no way that we can expect any kind of assurance that the sales tax on farm equipment will remain in place regardless of what happens here